

STOCKTON UNION.

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Rural District Council.

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 REPORT 

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For 1898.

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Stockton-on-Tees :

EDWARD APPLEBY, PRINTER, HIGH STREET.

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1899.



STOCKTON-ON-TEES.

TO THE

MEMBERS OF THE STOCKTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to present to you my report on your district for the year 1898.

In February I had a case of Small-pox notified at Port Clarence. This was contracted at Middlesbro', where there was a very serious epidemic, and the prospect of a very serious one in your district owing to the close communication that was continually taking place with the Middlesbro' community ; it was necessary to take immediate and drastic steps to avoid a serious epidemic, so your Board at once established a Hospital to meet the difficulty and approached the Guardians to get efficient vaccination carried out in the district ; this they did by establishing daily public vaccination stations all over their union and ordering domiciliary vaccinations over the infected area, viz. : Port Clarence and Haverton Hill. The happy result of such measures was that the epidemic was immediately stamped out. Not one of the re-vaccinated took the disease and the last two cases that occurred at Port Clarence were persons who were the only ones in two large families that had not been re-vaccinated.

The energetic way in which Dr. Monroe carried out the vaccination took the material away which could possibly spread the disease. The whole of the cases were treated at the Stockton Infectious Hospital and the one you had established never was occupied. Your Authority are to be congratulated on the strong way they dealt with this emergency, and the result must be highly satisfactory to them. The great lesson that I learn from this outbreak is that the only efficient way to deal with an outbreak of Smallpox is by vaccination, carried out carefully, and protecting everyone who may possibly run a risk of contracting the disease, Isolation and sanitary steps being used as a powerful help.

The question of vaccination is very prominent at the present time owing to the passing of the new act for that purpose. I believe that the working of this act will be better than was at first anticipated : vaccination will not be so general, as some will avail themselves of the conscience clause, but this number will not be so great as was at first thought. The cost of the working of the act will be greatly increased. There is one source of danger to the protection against Smallpox and that is that some medical men are vaccinating with only one mark. Now this is known by all experts on Smallpox to be a very inefficient protection which time rapidly effaces : the danger of these cases is that Authorities from their vaccination returns may think that their districts are well protected while the protection is in reality hardly in existence.

Another subject that is prominent before the public at present is the dealing with Tuberculosis, both in the lower animals and human beings. This is now recognised as an infectious disease and should come under the eye of the Sanitary Authorities, both in regard to the human being and the lower animals. In the former as an infectious disease which is communicable from man to man, and in the latter as a disease which may be communicated to man by food. The steady decrease of consumption in human beings of late years (undoubtedly due to the better housing and better food of the people) is a strong argument that the sources of danger of communicating the disease to others should be dealt with in the most efficient way that circumstances, and our knowledge, can allow. The scientific researches into the cause of the disease and the more intimate knowledge of the habits of the disease-producing germ, have given us lines for the treatment and prevention of the disease which were not formerly understood. The present attempt to found Sanatoria all over the country for the treatment of consumption should be welcomed as a comfort and advantage to the sufferers who are likely to benefit, but this can do very little to stop the spread of the disease, as the cases that will be treated will be such a small proportion of those affected. It is in the prevention of the spread of Tuberculosis that the duties of Sanitary Authorities come in, for they should take every step that will help to stay the spread either from human beings already infected, or from food produced by infected animals. The steps that could be taken in our present knowledge is to make the disease come under the Notification Act. Then the Authorities could advise the best steps to be taken for isolating the person at home, when possible, or in some public institution to be provided. The careful disinfection of the sputum and excreta and the free allowance of fresh air and sunlight which are the principal enemies of the germs. The dealing with the food supplies should be placed under thoroughly scientific inspectors, and any doubtful source of infection dealt with, this applying especially to milk. The housing of cattle collectively in badly ventilated sheds and byers, particularly in the earlier stages of their lives, lay sources of disease which the close confinement in feeding beasts, or the drastic exhaustion of milking, develop.

The estimated increase of the population of the district is 565. This is arrived at by allowing five per house in the 113 new houses occupied. The basis of these calculations will be on an estimated population of 14,245. The census population was 11,970. The number of births registered during the year was 383, or a birth rate of 28.8 per thousand.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 178. Allowing for 5 dying outside the district, in the Asylum, Hospital, and Workhouse, and 2 in the district belonging other districts, makes 181, and death rate of 12.7 per thousand.



The annual death rate in 1897 was 12.5. In 1896 was 12.1.

The death rate is satisfactory taking into consideration the number of deaths from Smallpox.

The infantile death rate in Norton, Billingham, Cowpen, and Whitton, is heavy, but in the agricultural districts it is extremely low. This tells the tale of what pure food, plenty of fresh air, and care will do for the children.

The following table shews the number of deaths under 5 years of age :—

		Deaths		Infants under 5		Rate per cent.
Norton	...	54	...	20	...	37'0
Billingham	...	40	...	18	...	45'0
Cowpen	...	11	...	7	...	63'6
Wolviston	...	10	...	3	...	30'0
Whitton	...	18	...	11	...	61'1
Egglescliffe	...	17	...	2	...	11'7
Agricultural	...	23	...	7	...	30'4

The work of the district has been very smoothly carried on during the year. There has been no case before the magistrates, and all improvement work has been done by owners willingly. The District Council have often had subjects referred to the Parish Councils for their opinion, and the Parish Councils have frequently brought questions before the District Council and these communications have been pleasantly and in a business-like manner considered.

The lighting of the district has been extended in the townships where lighting powers exist, for the increased requirements, notably in Billingham. It would be a great boon to Egglescliffe and Preston if these townships could see their way to adopt lighting powers.

Scavenging has been well carried out by the Contractors and the same Contractors have been continued for 1899, with one exception. I believe that frequent scavenging is the great factor in our low death rate, and I hope that the inspector will give the same supervision as hitherto.

Building is going on very rapidly all over the populous parts of the district, and this is likely to be greater, owing to the development of further industries in these centres. 113 new houses were certified, viz, :

Norton	...	...	19		Egglescliffe	...	...	16
Billingham	...	...	35		Agricultural	...	...	43

The sewers have acted well, except in a few instances, and have been kept clean by frequent flushing. One sewer in Back Oak Street, Haverton, has subsided, and will require relaying. A long new sewer has been constructed along the Yarm Road in the Township of Preston: passing down the road to Preston Farm and so to the Tees. By the construction of this sewer the Authorities outlet into the tidal basin of the Tees is completed from Egglescliffe to Port Clarence, and the whole of the land likely to be used for building purposes for some distance from the river can now be efficiently drained into the river.

The drainage of Fairfield is still in the same state, but the Board have called in an expert Engineer to give his opinion on the matter, and it is now in his hands. As soon as the drainage is completed I hope the Stockton and Middlesbrough Water Board will see that it will be to their advantage to lay the water on to this district. There are difficulties in the way of the Council taking the responsibility owing to the supply being required in more than one township, but I have no doubt that if the Water Board constructed the mains it would be a profitable outlay.

The water supply has been satisfactory both from the wells and public supply. The public pumps in the district have efficiently supplied the villages, even during through the drought of last summer.

I should think that the population of Wolviston (615) would justify the Water Board in laying mains from where they at present cease, half way between Billingham and Wolviston, to that village, as the villagers would ultimately take the water, and that there are several large consumers who would immediately become a good source of income.

The cow sheds are now registered and under inspection. I would urge upon the inspector the necessity of seeing to their ventilation, cleanliness, and whitewashing. The Tuberculosis in cows is generally in the lungs, and the infection is introduced by breathing the infected air, and no air is so dangerous as that which contains dust, with tubercle germs in it.

There have been 69 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, and 22 removed to hospital.

Cases notified.			Removed to hospital.		
Smallpox	...	15	...	...	14
Scarlatina	...	32	...	...	3
Diphtheria	...	1	...	...	0
Typhoid Fever	...	20	...	...	5
Erysipelas	...	1	...	...	0

**SMALL-POX.**—Was imported from Middlesbrough and we got the first case notified on February 4th. The steps for protection previously described were at once taken. 15 cases altogether occurred, 14 of which were removed to the Smallpox Hospital of the Stockton Urban Council, and one was isolated at home. 5 of the cases died. The cases that came under my observation shew the protection afforded by efficient vaccination, and the protection against Smallpox by vaccination is in ratio to the number of vaccination marks and the area of their scars.

**SCARLATINA.**—32 cases have been notified during the year. Nearly all these cases were in two outbreaks, one at Port Clarence in August and the other at Egglescliffe Junction in November. The types of the outbreaks were extremely mild, consequently there was a difficulty in getting the cases removed to the hospital. There were no deaths from this disease during the year.

**DIPHTHERIA.**—There was only one case notified during the year, and that at Thorpe. No cause was found.

**TYPHOID FEVER.**—The 20 cases notified were extended all through the year, but were principally in two centres, in Haverton Hill and Port Clarence area, and that of Carlton Iron Works. The disease was never epidemic, and it was difficult to account for any cause, except the conditions which exist in cottage dwellings where there is overcrowding, and not over great cleanliness in the surroundings. 5 cases were removed to the hospital.

**WHOOPIING COUGH.**—This was prevalent in the eastern and central portion of the district, in the beginning of the year, and caused one death.

**MEASLES.**—This disease was prevalent in the centre of the district during August and September, but of a mild type, causing one death.

**INFLUENZA.**—Was prevalent all over the district in the early spring, and caused three deaths.

### Norton.

Census population 3789, estimated population 4415. Births 111, deaths 54. Annual death rate 12·2.

The village has been very healthy during the year. Six cases of infectious disease have been notified under the act, viz.: one of Smallpox, two of Scarlet Fever, and three of Typhoid Fever. A number of cases of Measles occurred in August and September of a very mild type. The only death from infectious disease was the case of Smallpox which was contracted by working at the Smallpox Hospital.



The sewers and drains have worked well, and been frequently flushed to cleanse them. The streets are kept very clean, orderly and well lighted. Several additional lamps have been added to meet requirements.

The new trams have been started and are a great convenience to the public, which will undoubtedly give a great impetus to building in the village, for people will use them to get out of the heavy rates of Stockton, and enjoy country life.

### **Billingham—including Haverton Hill.**

Census population 2649, estimated population 3365. Births 95, deaths 40. Annual death rate 11·8.

This Township has a very low death rate, especially taking into consideration the urban character of the greater part of the population, the climate, and physical characters of the soil where Haverton Hill is built. There has been a large amount of building going on and I think that a large population will rapidly be housed there, and the Sanitary Authority are placed in a position to drain the large area which may be used for building sites. The sewers of the Township have worked well, except some of those at Haverton Hill, which the Authority will relay.

The lighting has been extended in the old village. Haverton Hill is still lighted with oil, the terms for lighting with gas from Messrs. Bell Bros. have not yet been arranged.

Twenty cases of infectious disease were notified, 7 of which were Small-Pox.

### **Cowpen Bewley (including Port Clarence).**

Census population 1057, estimated population 1066. Births 31, deaths 11. Annual death rate 10·3.

The old village has been very healthy during the year, but at Port Clarence there have been outbreaks of Scarlatina, Smallpox, and Typhoid Fever, but causing no deaths in the Township. There have been no new houses erected during the year, but there has been a considerable developement in the manufactories. The sewers have acted well, the scavenging has been satisfactory, and the water supply good. I trust that the lighting will be carried out with gas, when Haverton Hill is done.

### **Wolviston.**

Census population 585, estimated population 615, births 15, deaths 10. Annual death rate 16·2.



The only cases of infectious disease that were reported were two of Scarlet Fever. The village has been healthy but the death rate is high owing to the death of several very old people. The drains have acted well, but something must be done with the outfalls of the sewers, to purify them, and so avoid the serious nuisance which they at present cause in the becks.

### Whitton.

Census population 1081, estimated population 1091, births 33, deaths 18. Annual death rate 16·4.

The infant mortality in this township has been very great, 11 out of the 18 deaths being in children under 5 years of age, two of these being from Measles and two from Diarrhœa. There have been 6 cases of Typhoid Fever, but no sanitary defect could be found to account for the disease.

The owners of the houses have improved them, and I hope with a good water supply we will have less infectious disease in this township than heretofore. The sewers have acted well and the scavenging has been satisfactory.

### Egglescliffe.

Census population 791, estimated population 1225. Births 37, deaths 17. Annual death rate 13·8.

Out of 17 deaths that have occurred during the year, 9 were in persons over 65 years of age and only two were infants. There was a serious outbreak of Scarlatina in November, springing from the Egglescliffe School, 13 cases occurred but no deaths. The sewers have acted well and the scavenging has been fairly satisfactory.

Building is going on very rapidly at Eaglescliffe Junction, 16 new houses having been certified in this township, Preston a large village has rapidly sprung up, and it is likely to steadily increase, especially if tram accommodation is carried along the Stockton road.

### Agricultural.

Census population 2018, estimated population 2468, births 61, deaths 23, Annual death rate 9·3.

43 new houses have been certified in this area, the principal part of which are at Hartburn and Preston. The new sewer has been constructed as before noticed at Preston, and I hope before another year that the Fairfield Drainage and water supply will be an accomplished fact. The health of the whole district has been exceptionally good, only two cases of infectious disease, and no deaths have occurred therefrom.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. BLANDFORD.



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(A) *TABLE of DEATHS during the Year 1897*  
*Diseases, &c.*

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.  <i>Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.</i>			MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.								M		
			At all ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards		Small-pox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	1	2	3		
Norton... ..	54	15	5	4	3	15	12	Under 5					
								5 upwds.					
Billingham ... ..	40	12	6	3		12	7	Under 5					
								5 upwds.					
Cowpen .. ...	11	2	5	1		2	1	Under 5					
								5 upwds.					
Wolviston ... ..	10	3			1	3	3	Under 5					
								5 upwds.					
Whitton ... ..	18	8	3			6	1	Under 5					
								5 upwds.					
Egglescliffe ... ..	17	2				6	9	Under 5					
								5 upwds.					
Agricultural ... ..	23	6	1	1	3	6	6	Under 5					
								5 upwds.					
Small-Pox Hospital ...	5					2	3	Under 5					
								5 upwds.	5				
								Under 5					
								5 upwds.					
								Under 5					
Totals ...	178	48	20	9	9	53	39	Under 5					
								5 upwds.	5				
<i>The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into</i>													
Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.	5					2	3	Under 5					
								5 upwds.					
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.	2	2						Under 5					
								5 upwds.					

in the Stockton Rural District; classified according to  
s, and Localities.

ITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

Group	FEVERS.					Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Influenza	Injuries	All other Diseases	TOTAL
	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal													
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
										1		1	4	1			13	20
												4	3	10	1		16	34
								1		4			2				11	18
												2	4	3		2	11	22
									1				1				5	7
													2	1		1		4
										1							2	3
												1					6	7
								2		2							7	11
																2	5	7
																	2	2
										1		2	2	3	1	1	5	15
										1		1	1				4	7
											1	3	2	4	1		5	16
																		5
								3	1	9		2	8	1			44	68
										1	1	12	13	21	3	6	48	110

ount in judging of the above records of mortality.

													1	1		1	2	5
												1					1	2







